Research at UCF Growing in Size and Significance

Last year was another record year for UCF in terms of external funding. The most striking increases in OE funding are in nanoscience and biomedical sciences, with increases of 300% and 100% respectively.

The Nanoscience Technology Center’s efforts include a National Science Foundation CAREER award for Gun Hoo, associate professor in the department of chemistry, for a project to develop a synthetic method for incorporating nanoparticles into material structures. Additional projects in the center include developing nanomaterials with superior optical, electrical and thermal properties. The center is also building strong programs in life sciences, including development of new in-vitro systems and drug screening methods, as well as other disciplines with projects involving biological threat detection, nanoscale optics and electronic processing and magnetic sensors.

The Burnett College of Biomedical Sciences continues to grow with research in areas including Alzheimer’s disease, treatments for various forms of cancer, investigations into the use of adult stem cells, and a variety of vaccines and therapies using chloroplast transformation in plants. The addition of the University of Central Florida Medical School will serve as a catalyst for even more growth and activity in the Burnett college of Biomedical Sciences. The college plans to offer a doctor of medicine (M.D.) degree program beginning in the fall of 2009.

The college has hired several research faculty in the past year and those faculty are conducting funded research projects in a number of exciting areas. Jack Cheng, an associate professor in the biomedical college, received $1.2 million in funding last year, largely for work exploring the connection between the brain and heart disease in diabetics. Kiminobu Sugaya continues pioneering work in the use of adult stem cells to treat Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases as well as other neurodegenerative conditions. Sugaya and a partner relocated a company, NeoCytex BioPharma, Inc., to the UCF Technology Incubator to make therapies based on Sugaya’s research available to the marketplace.

Faculty from the College of Education, which routinely tops UCF’s funding list, secured significant resources to support their work, including the Florida Literacy & Reading Excellence Center, the Reading First Professional Development programs, and the effective Institutional Practices projects.

The College of Engineering and Computer Sciences, the Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers, the Florida Solar Energy Center, the Institute for Simulation and Training, the Center of Sciences, the College of Health and Public Affairs, and the Advanced Materials Processing and Analysis Center all had solid years producing significant research and scholarly activity for funding agencies across the world.

As the numbers in this book indicate, research at UCF is growing in size and significance. Last year the UCF Millionaires Club, established in 2000 to honor researchers receiving a million dollars or more of funding in a year, inducted 21 members. With faculty of that caliber, and more research areas opening up for them to explore here at UCF, we can look forward to more good years ahead.

Tom O’Neal
Associate Vice President for Research
10-YEAR RESEARCH FUNDING HISTORY, 1997-2006

TOTAL FEDERAL AWARDS, 1997-2006
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TOTAL FEDERAL AWARDS, 1997-2006
2006 SPONSORED RESEARCH PROGRAM AWARDS BY SPONSOR TYPE

- FEDERAL
- STATE
- PRIVATE/OTHER

RESEARCH AWARDS BY ACADEMIC UNIT 2006

- Student Development and Enrollment Services: $4,202,237
- Rosen College of Hospitality Management: $350,000
- Nanoscale Technology Center: $2,050,649
- Institute for Simulation & Training (IST): $4,252,455
- Burnett College of Biomedical Sciences: $7,177,337
- Administration and Other: $6,761,946
- Advanced Materials Processing & Analysis Center (AMAPC): $2,328,058
- College of Health & Public Affairs (CHPA): $6,473,029
- Business Administration (BA): $1,251,156
- College of Arts & Humanities: $1,552,209
- Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC): $6,794,699
- College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS): $5,205,446
- College of Education: $6,294,498
- College of Optics and Photonics: $14,261,220
- Continuing Education: $2,796,662
- College of Sciences: $7,988,488
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